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Patent claims

1. A control system (1) for a motor vehicle, said system having
   - a manual operating means (3) having a plurality of adjustment degrees of freedom for selecting and/or activating entries in a menu structure having a plurality of menu levels, and
   - a screen display (2) having a plurality of display areas (210 to 250) for displaying the menu structure, the display areas (210 to 250) each comprising at least one field for displaying one of the entries (1.1 to 5.7),
   - a plurality of entries (E3 to E11) being arranged in a display area (230.2, 230.4) which is in the form of a list in an active display area (210 to 250) on at least one menu level,

   characterized in that
   - an (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) can be activated and displayed by activating at least one of the entries (E1 to E11, E2.1 to E2.9) in an nth display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6),
   - the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) being able to be displayed, beside the nth display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6) or in such a manner that it at least partially overlaps the nth display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6), on the screen display (2) in the active display area (230), and
   - n being a natural number.

2. The control system as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) can be displayed on

the screen display (2) on the basis of the available free space.

3. The control system as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5) is in the form of a list having at least one entry (3.1 to 3.4, E2.1 to E2.9, E3.1 to E3.9).

4. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) at least partially overlaps a plurality of display areas (210, 220, 230, 230.3, 230.4, 240, 250).

5. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 4, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.7) can be displayed within the nth display area (230.3, 230.6).

6. The control system as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3) which is in the form of a list shifts the entries (E3 to E11) in the list of the nth display area (320.2) downward or upward in the case of a vertical list or to the left or right in the case of a horizontal list.

7. The control system as claimed in claim 5 or 6, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.3, 230.7) has the same width as the nth display area (230.2, 230.6).

8. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.7) is in the form of a parameter area for setting a parameter.

9. The control system as claimed in claim 8, characterized in that the (n+1)th display area (230.7) which is in the form of a parameter area replaces the entry (E9), which activates it, in the list of the nth display area (230.6).

10. The control system as claimed in one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that at least the display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) which was activated last is closed by operating the manual operating means (3) with an adjustment degree of freedom which is orthogonal to the orientation of the entries in the display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) which was activated last, all of the activated display areas (230.2, 230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.6, 230.7) being simultaneously closed in the case of an operating direction away from the triggering display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6), and only the display area (230.3, 230.4, 230.5, 230.7) which was activated last being closed by an operation toward the triggering display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6), and the triggering display area (230.2, 230.4, 230.6) being activated for a new selection of an entry.